



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS BOMB EXPERT WHO FRAUDULENTLY USED DIPLOMATIC VISA TO ILLEGALLY ENTER U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported an Algerian bomb expert Thursday who used a diplomatic visa to illegally enter the United States.

Youcef Amirouche, a citizen of Algeria, entered the United States as Dulles International Airport under a diplomatic visa March 2, 2003. He immediately went into hiding and took jobs in two Washington-area restaurants.

An A-2 visa is a diplomatic visa established for accredited foreign officials who are not diplomats. It enables a foreign government official to enter the United States for official activities of their government. The State Department revoked Amirouche's visa for misuse July 22.

The diplomatic visa had been issued to Amirouche May 6, 2002 because he was employed by the Algerian government as a bomb technician for its "Group d' Intervention Special (GIS)" anti-terrorism division from 1998 to 2003. Amirouche had previously attended bomb technician training in Richmond, Va. in 2001. He used the visa to attend additional training in Louisiana in 2002. For unknown reasons, he quit working for the GIS sometime before entering the United States in March.

Amirouche was arrested by ICE as an immigration status violator Oct. 8.

Amirouche's initial hearing was held before an immigration judge Oct. 27. On Dec. 15, he agreed before an immigration judge to voluntarily leave the United States within 60 days under the safeguard of ICE detention and removal officers.

The Algerian Embassy assisted ICE by providing the travel documents needed to carry out the deportation.

Compounding the matter, ICE learned that Amirouche might attempt to escape at some point during the removal process. As the removal operation was underway, Amirouche continually asked his escorts for information about the flight he would be on, if it was making stops in other countries, and if he could make a phone call. This prompted the ICE officers to take additional security precautions. Amirouche then attempted to convince the officers that their precautions were unnecessary.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.